(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various reports pertaining to film industry indicate that the popularity of Indian films abroad is growing fast and that Indian film-makers are trying to tap overseas markets in different parts of the World. Along with other audience, the growing Indian diaspora around the world has created a market for Indian films overseas. In accordance with the feedback received from the representatives of the Indian Film Industry, markets for Indian films are growing steadily in North Europe, Germany, France and Japan. In China too, there is huge untapped film market. The mainstream cable companies in the United States have started a "Video on Demand" for Indian films. Latin America is also considered as a new market for Indian films.

(d) and (e) Recognising the potential of export of Indian films abroad, Government of India has taken several steps to encourage promotion of Indian films. They are as follows:

(i) To promote Indian films, Government of India through its Plan Scheme "Participation in foreign Film Festival/Markets", encourages Indian companies and producers to participate in global film festivals and markets such as Cannes Film Festival/Market, European Film Market, Berlin, etc. Film Bazaar is also held alongside the International Film Festival of India at Goa. Further, in order to promote cinema and to enhance the visibility of our film industry, Govt. of India organizes India Pavilion in markets and screens Indian films in different International film festivals. Indian film festivals are also organized in different countries regularly.

(ii) Audio-visual co-production agreements have been signed with Republic of Italy, United Kingdom, Brazil and Germany.

(iii) In order to ensure all round development of film industry, five Core Groups, comprising of the representatives of the film industry, had been constituted to submit suggestions on measures to promote the film industry. Action has been initiated on several recommendations.

(iv) Industry has been encouraged to constitute an Export Promotion Forum/Council. Such Forum, as and when constituted, could seek financial support from the Government of India for development of export markets and participation therein.

(v) Films are permitted to be exhibited in film festivals in India and abroad under ATA Carnet.

Construction of National Highways through private sector

†*70. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of nine road stretches of National Highways with the length of 1409.93 Km. has been allocated to the private sector at a cost of Rs. 18,238.05 crore;

(b) if not, the facts in this behalf;

(c) whether any assessment of the construction cost of the above road stretches has been conducted by Government;

(d) the status of this assessment in comparison to cost of road construction at international level; and

(e) the name of the institute which has made assessment of the construction cost for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (b) The bidding process for award of nine projects with a total length of 1408.93 km involving total project cost of Rs.17,219 crore under National Highway Development Project Phase-V on Public Private Partnership basis is in various stages. The details of these projects are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The assessment of the construction cost has been carried out by the consultants engaged by the National Highways Authority of India for preparation of Feasibility Reports. These consultants are engaged through international competitive bidding. The details of consultants who assessed the cost of these nine projects are given in the Statement-II (See below). The cost of construction of roads depends on various factors which include the terrain and climatic conditions, specifications and standards, cost of equipment/machinery, raw materials and labour etc. which may vary in different countries and therefore, any comparative assessment of cost of road construction vis-a-vis that at the international level could not be carried out.

Statement-I

Construction of National Highways through private sector

Sl. No.	Section	NH No.	Length (km)	Estimated Total Project Cost (TPC) (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Delhi-Agra	2	179.10	2110.00
2	Kishangarh-Udaipur	79A, 79 and 76	315	3384.00
3	Chandikhol-Jagatpur-Bhubaneswar	5	67.00	1047.00
4	Vijayawada-Elluru-Rajamundri	5	198.20	2658.00

1	2	3	4	5
5	Varanasi-Aurangabad	2	192.40	2848.00
6	Nellore-Chilkaluripet	5	183.7	2380.00
7	Krishanagiri-Walahjpet	46	148.30	1639.00
8	Belgaum-Dharwad	4	80.18	702.00
9	Indore-Dewas	3	45.05	451.00
	Total		1408.93	17,219.00

Statement-II

Construction of National Highways through private sector

Sl.No.	Section	Cost assessed by the Consultant
1	Delhi-Agra	M/s. CES (I) Pvt. Ltd. in JV with Yongma Engg. Co. Ltd.
2	Kishangarh-Udaipur	M/s. Louise Berger Group INC, USA
3	Chandikhol-Jagatpur-Bhubaneswar	M/s. CES(I) Pvt. Ltd. in JV with Yongma Engg. Co. Ltd.
4	Vijayawada-Elluru-Rajamundri	M/s. BCEOM France in association with BECOM (i) Pvt. Ltd.
5	Varanasi-Aurangabad	M/s. STUP Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
6	Nellore-Chilkaluripet	M/s. BCEOM France in association with BCEOM(i) Pvt. Ltd.
7	Krishanagiri-Walahjpet	M/s. Louise Berger Group INC USA
8	Belgaum-Dharwad	M/s. Consulting Engineers Group Ltd.
9	Indore-Dewas	M/s. Consulting Engineers Group Ltd.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

*71. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas held in Chennai;

(b) the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the response of various countries, so far?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The 7th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, from